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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,812	03/25/2004	Veerle Verschueren	227965	7592

23460 7590 09/11/2007  
LEYDIG VOIT & MAYER, LTD  
TWO PRUDENTIAL PLAZA, SUITE 4900  
180 NORTH STETSON AVENUE  
CHICAGO, IL 60601-6731

EXAMINER
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WALKE, AMANDA C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1752

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/11/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/808,812

Applicant(s)

VERSCHUEREN ET AL.

Examiner

Amanda C. Walke

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-9,11-13,15,16,18,19 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-9,11-13,15,16,18,19 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/8/2006 has been entered.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita et al (6,593,057) in view of Ide et al (6,821,704) or Loccufier et al (6,457,413).

Kita disclose a heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor is disclosed, comprising a metal substrate having thereon 1) an ink-receptive layer, 2) a water-receptive layer comprising a colloidal particulate oxide or hydroxide of at least one element selected from the group consisting of beryllium, magnesium, aluminum, silicon, titanium, boron, germanium, tin, zirconium, iron, vanadium, antimony and transition metals, or additionally 3) a water-soluble overcoat layer, at least one layer of the ink-receptive layer, the water-receptive layer and the overcoat layer containing a compound capable of converting light into heat and the ink-receptive

layer containing an epoxy resin having a softening point of 120 degrees C or more. The substrate on which the ink-receptive layer of the present invention is coated is a metal substrate having good dimensional stability. Preferred examples of the metal substrate include aluminum, zinc, copper, nickel and stainless steel. Among these, aluminum substrate is more preferred.

The starting material aluminum plate used for the aluminum substrate of the present invention may be appropriately selected from conventionally known and commonly used aluminum plate materials. More specifically, the starting material aluminum plate is a pure aluminum plate or an alloy plate mainly comprising aluminum and containing trace foreign elements. Examples of the foreign elements contained in the aluminum alloy include silicon, iron, manganese, copper, magnesium, chromium, zinc, bismuth, nickel and titanium. The content of foreign elements in the alloy is 10% by weight or less. The aluminum plate may also be an aluminum plate obtained from an aluminum ingot using DC casting or continuous casting. The thickness of the aluminum substrate for use in the present invention is from 0.05 to 0.6 mm, preferably from 0.1 to 0.4 mm, more preferably from 0.15 to 0.3 mm. On the heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor of the present invention, an image is formed by heat. More specifically, direct image recording by a thermal recording head or the like, scanning exposure by an infrared ray laser, high-intensity flash exposure by a xenon discharge lamp, or infrared ray lamp exposure may be applied. In particular, the exposure is suitably performed using a semiconductor laser which radiates an infrared ray in the wavelength range of 700 to 1,200 nm, or a solid high output infrared ray laser such as YAG laser. The reference teaches that the particles are preferably from 0.005 to .1 microns, or a string of up to 0.4 microns preferably, the reference is not limited thereto.

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Loccufier et al and Ide et al each disclose heat sensitive printing plate materials comprising aluminum oxide particles or oxide particles of other metals also disclosed by Kita et al having a size of up to 10 microns and 0.5 microns respectively. The references teach that it is known in the art to have similar particles of a size larger than 0.4 microns.

Given the teachings of the references, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to prepare the material of Kita et al choosing to prepare the material having larger particles given the teachings of Ide et al and Loccufier et al, with reasonable expectation of achieving a material having improved impression capacity.

***Response to Arguments***


3. Applicant's arguments filed 11/8/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has argued that the Kita reference fails to meet the instant claim limitations as it has an overcoat layer, thus teaching away from the instant invention. The instant claims simply require that the resin coating comprise components a-d, and the teachings of Kita in light of Ide and Loccufier (both secondary references teach that the particles are added to improve the mechanical strength of the resin layer/ heat sensitive layer). Regardless of whether there is an overcoat or whether the particles are larger in diameter than the thickness of the layer, the claims simply require that particles of that composition and size are present, thus the rejection is maintained.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amanda C. Walke whose telephone number is 571-272-1337. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 5:30-4.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on 571-272-1526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Amanda C Walke  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1752

ACW  
August 21, 2007